

1-272-13

18 March, 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR : DDI Coordinator of
Academic Relations

THRU : Chief, OPR/SOV

SUBJECT : Lecture Visit to U.C., Davis

VISIT

1. On 3-4 March I visited the campus of the University of California at Davis and delivered lectures to two upper-division undergraduate courses taught by Professor Paul Zinner of the Political Science Department. The first course was a general review of Soviet foreign policy, and the second was a basic offering on international relations. In the first I talked for an hour, and then joined a small informal discussion over coffee for yet another hour. In the second I spoke an hour and a half about the Soviet outlook on international relations, took questions for a like period, and then chatted informally for another two hours with several of the more interested students.

RECEPTION

2. The students received what I had to say well. In the first course almost all questions in the discussion period related to the subject of my prepared remarks and there was no sign of challenge or hostility to my being there or to the agency itself. This group had been told in advance to expect a government speaker from Washington, but not that he would be from CIA.

3. The second class had been told the previous week to expect a lecturer from CIA, and minor negative reaction to this was expressed. There was no hostility from this group either, however, though there was more skepticism and somewhat tougher questions were asked. None were really difficult to answer, and at no point did I feel or portray a

sense of being equivocal or on the defensive. This group's questions were mixed, with substantive questions about my topic and other questions about the agency or my particular kind of work about equally divided.

BENEFIT

4. The principal benefit for the agency was showing our analytical side to perhaps 80-100 students in a setting completely comfortable to the students and where discussion was focused on material fitted to the courses and presented in an ordinary academic atmosphere and style. A secondary benefit was the contact between a government analyst and an academic specialist on a subject of mutual professional interest.

OBSERVATIONS


5. The following remarks are offered with an eye to what elements I thought made the visit successful:

- a. The topic was substantive and discussion was largely academic in nature; this is a much better vehicle for inducing a good general impression of the agency than an address by someone billed as an agency spokesman addressing controversial public issues regarding CIA.
- b. The topic and lecture were fitted into the normal university course structure; it was not a separate talk to a general campus audience that would be much more likely to get into the campus or local newspaper.
- c. The relationship between the professor and agency contacts is very important; in this case it was very good.
 - He did not publicize the visit in any way other than telling the class about it in the preceding session.
 - He accurately outlined the size, type, level

of knowledge and likely general attitudes of his classes to me in advance.

-In introducing me he established my academic bona fides and laid the ground rules for discussion (that I was there to talk substance, but would accept general questions as well).

6. In a sense the question asked of me that worried me the most was exactly how I came to be lecturing on the campus. My chief worry was that the question was aimed at tying the professor to the agency (if I said he requested my visit) or at a believed agency effort to propagandize its views domestically (if I indicated that we sought the appearance). I answered generally (and successfully) in terms of the positive value CIA sees in maintaining relations with academe through participation in professional society meetings, conferences on topics of mutual interest, etc. But any person who talks on a campus should be aware of the nature of this relationship and be prepared to answer fairly specific questions about his own appearance there.


Office of Political Research
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